

In the Claims:

Please add the following Claims.

23. A method for extracting a tissue sample from a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an instrument comprising an outer hollow cannula, an inner cutting member, and a tissue sample holder;

directing at least a portion of the outer hollow cannula into the patient;

drawing tissue into the outer hollow cannula;

severing a tissue sample from the tissue drawn into the outer hollow cannula with the inner cutting member; and

disposing the tissue sample in the tissue sample holder without removing the tissue sample from the instrument.

24. The method of Claim 23 wherein the step of drawing tissue into the outer hollow cannula comprises providing a vacuum for drawing tissue into the outer hollow cannula.

25. The method of Claim 23 wherein the step of severing the tissue sample comprises advancing the inner cutting member within the outer hollow cannula to sever the tissue sample.

26. The method of Claim 23 wherein the step of severing the tissue sample comprises rotating the inner cutting member while advancing the inner cutting member within the outer hollow cannula.

27. The method of Claim 23 wherein the step of drawing tissue into the outer hollow cannula comprises drawing tissue through a laterally disposed tissue receiving port in the outer hollow cannula.

28. The method of Claim 23 wherein the step of directing the outer hollow cannula comprises piercing the patient's skin with a distal end portion of the outer hollow cannula.

29. The method of Claim 23 wherein the step of disposing the tissue sample in the tissue sample holder comprises transporting the severed tissue sample through at least a portion of the outer hollow cannula.

30. The method of Claim 23 wherein the step of disposing the tissue sample in the tissue sample holder comprises using suction to at least partially assist in transporting the severed tissue sample to the tissue sample holder.

31. The method of Claim 23 comprising disposing a plurality of tissue samples in the tissue sample holder without removing the outer hollow cannula from the patient.

32. The method of Claim 23 comprising rotating the outer hollow cannula within the patient to obtain a plurality of tissue samples from different angular orientations about a tissue mass without removing the outer hollow cannula from the patient.

33. A method for extracting a plurality of tissue samples from within a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

inserting a hollow tubular member into a tissue mass to be sampled, wherein the hollow tubular member has a laterally disposed tissue receiving port;

rotating the lateral tissue receiving port within the patient's body near a target position to a first angular orientation;

cutting a first tissue specimen which has entered the laterally disposed tissue receiving port from the first angular orientation;

transporting the first tissue specimen through at least a portion of the hollow tubular member without removing the hollow tubular member from the patient;

rotating the lateral tissue receiving port within the patient's body to a second angular orientation without removing the hollow tubular member from the patient; and

cutting a second tissue specimen which has entered the laterally disposed tissue receiving port from the second angular orientation.

34. The method of Claim 33 comprising disposing at least one of the tissue samples in a tissue sample holder by transporting the tissue sample proximally through at least a portion of the hollow tubular member.